

CLAIMS

1. A method for pricing a print job comprising:
providing an approximate amount of ink associated with the print job; and
pricing the print job, wherein the pricing is associated with the approximate amount of ink.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the print job is printed on a digital printer.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the approximate amount of ink associated with the print job is automatically provided.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of ink for a color is estimated by summing a color value number for the color for each pixel of the document to obtain a total color value number; and multiplying the total color value number by the size of a pixel to obtain an ink coverage value associated with the color.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a cost multiplier with units of currency per color inch².
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising multiplying the cost multiplier with an ink coverage value associated with the color.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein a method for determining the cost multiplier comprising:
providing a first ink coverage value of a color for a first document;
printing the first document on a printer until the printer runs out of an ink cartridge of the color;

deriving a second ink coverage value associated with the ink cartridge of the printer; and

dividing a cost of the ink cartridge by the ink coverage value of the ink cartridge.

8. A system for pricing a print job comprising:

a processor configured to price a print job when an approximate amount of ink associated with a print job is provided, wherein the pricing is associated with the approximate amount of ink; and

a memory coupled with the processor, the memory being configured to provide the processor with instructions.

9. A computer program product for pricing a print job, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

providing an approximate amount of ink associated with the print job; and

pricing the print job, wherein the pricing is associated with the approximate amount of ink.

10. A method for estimating a cost of a print job comprising:

receiving a document;

converting the document into a predefined color space; and

estimating an amount of ink for a color associated with the document.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising determining a price of printing a project associated with the document, wherein the price is a function of the estimation of the amount of ink.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the estimating the amount of ink for a color associated with the document is automatically performed.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the amount of ink for a color is estimated by summing a color value number for the color for each pixel of the document to obtain a total color value number; and multiplying the total color value number by the size of a pixel to obtain an ink coverage value associated with the color.

14. The method of claim 10, further comprising determining a cost multiplier with units of currency per color inch².

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising multiplying the cost multiplier with an ink coverage value associated with the color.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein a method for determining the cost multiplier comprising:

providing a first ink coverage value of a color for a first document;

printing the first document on a printer until the printer runs out of an ink cartridge of the color;

deriving a second ink coverage value associated with the ink cartridge of the printer; and

dividing a cost of the ink cartridge by the ink coverage value of the ink cartridge.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein the document is received in a first format and further comprising translating the document into a second format.

18. The method of claim 10, further comprising converting the received document into a graphics bitmap.

19. The method of claim 10, further comprising estimating an amount of ink for each color associated with the document.

20. The method of claim 10, further comprising displaying a price.

21. A system for estimating a cost of a print job comprising:

a processor configured to receive a document; convert the document into a predefined color space; and estimate an amount of ink for a color associated with the document; and

a memory configured to provide instructions to the processor.

22. A computer program product for estimating a cost of a print job, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

receiving a document;

converting the document into a predefined color space; and

estimating an amount of ink for a color associated with the document.